

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)

A method of recycling a digital camera which includes a an infrared communication section, comprising:

outputting image data from the infrared communication section to an external device; and

covering the infrared communication section portion of the digital camera with a removable protecting means which is removed at times when the image data is output, the protecting means substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section,

wherein, after the protecting means is removed and the image data is taken out from the communication section, the communication section is once again covered by the protecting means, thereby resetting the infrared communication section.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended)

A method of recycling a digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the protecting means covers the infrared communication section and charging terminals for charging a power source.

Claim 3. (Original)

Method of recycling a digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said protecting means is a sheet-shaped member which is elastic.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended)

A method of recycling a digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said protecting means is a protection film which wraps up the infrared communication section and the charging terminals.

Claim 5. (Original)

A method of recycling a digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising an indicating means for indicating that said protecting means was removed.

Claim 6. (Original)

Digital camera according to claim 5, wherein said indicating means is a "seal broken" mark which is exposed when the protecting means is removed.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended)

A digital camera comprising:

a an infrared communication section which outputs image data to an external device, and

a removable protecting means which covers the communication section of the digital camera and is removed at times when the image data is output, thereby resetting the infrared communication section, the protecting means substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended)

A digital camera according to claim 7, wherein the protecting means covers the infrared communication section and charging terminals for charging a power source.

Claim 9. (Original)

A digital camera according to claim 7, wherein said protecting means is a sheet-shaped member which is elastic.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended)

A digital camera according to claim 7, wherein said protecting means is a protection film which wraps up the infrared communication section and the charging terminals.

Claim 11. (Original)

A digital camera according to claim 7, further comprising indicating means for indicating that said protecting means was removed.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended)

A digital camera according to claim 7, wherein said infrared communication section is formed integrally with a body of the digital camera, and is a window whose transmission of data to and receipt of data from an external device is controlled by a CPU.

Claim 13. (Original)

A digital camera according to claim 11, wherein said indicating means is a "seal broken" mark which is exposed when the protecting means is removed.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended)

A digital camera comprising:

a an infrared communication section which outputs image data to an external device, and
a removable protecting cover which covers the communication section and is removed at times when the image data is output, thereby resetting the communication section, the protecting cover means substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended)

A digital camera according to claim 14, wherein the protecting cover covers the infrared communication section and charging terminals for charging a power source.

Claim 16. (Original)

A digital camera according to claim 14, wherein said protecting cover is a sheet-shaped member which is elastic.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended)

A digital camera according to claim 14, wherein said protecting cover is a protection film which wraps up the infrared communication section and the charging terminals.

Claim 18. (Original)

A digital camera according to claim 14, further comprising indicating means for indicating that said protecting means was removed.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended)

A digital camera according to claim 14, wherein said infrared communication section is formed integrally with a body of the digital camera,

and is a window whose transmission of data to and receipt of data from an external device is controlled by a CPU.

Claim 20. (Original)

A digital camera according to claim 18, wherein said indicating means is a "seal broken" mark which is exposed when the protecting means is removed.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23. (Cancelled)